

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1, 3-10 and 12-18 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the Amendments and Remarks as set forth herein below.

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has recognized the Applicants' claim for foreign priority. Because the Applicants' claim for foreign priority has been perfected, no additional action is required from the Applicants' at this time.

DRAWINGS

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has approved the Formal Drawings submitted by the Applicants.

The Drawings comply with the requirements of the USPTO.

No further action is necessary.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner has acknowledged the previously filed Information Disclosure Statements. Initialed copies of the PTO-1449s have been received from the Examiner.

No further action is necessary at this time.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

In addition, the Specification has been amended to clarify that the aperture end corresponds to 51a and the valve body corresponds to 51. These changes do not add new matter, because the previous portions of the Specification clearly define that the aperture end is numeral 51a and the valve body is numeral 51. Further, the numeral 21 is used to describe the scroll chamber (see paragraph [00049]).

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 102

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Iwaki (EP 1067280). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1 and 10 include a combination of elements and have been amended to included the subject matter recited in dependent Claims 2 and 11, respectfully, and to clarify that the aperture end of the cylindrical valve body presses the circular rubber seal. Further, claims 1 and 10 have also been amended to recite that the rubber seal is circular, has a rectangular section and includes projecting pieces formed along inner and outer peripheries of the rubber seal.

These features are supported by Fig. 15 and 16 and paragraph [00088]. For example, Fig. 15 illustrates the aperture end 51a of the cylindrical valve body 51 pressing the circular rubber seal 40. Further, Figures 8 and 9 illustrate the rubber seal 40 being circular, having a rectangular section and including projecting pieces 41, 42 and 43 formed along inner and outer peripheries of the rubber seal 40 (see also paragraphs [00083] – [00084]).

On the contrary, as shown in Fig. 5 of Iwaki, the end portion 17e of the valve body 17 does not press against the circular rubber seal (not numbered), but rather rests against a protruding portion of the valve body 17. Further, the rubber seal in Iwaki does not include projecting pieces as claimed by the present invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent Claims 1 and 10 and each of the claims containing therefrom are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination.

Since the remaining patent cited by the Examiner has not been utilized to reject the claims, but to merely show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

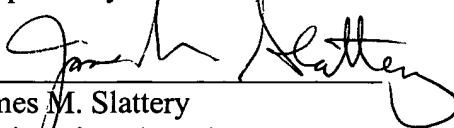
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone David A. Bilodeau at (703) 205-8072 in the Washington D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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JMS/DAB/kr/jg

Respectfully submitted,

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